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# Bill 25: An Act to Remove Politics and Ideology from Classrooms and Amend the Education Act, 2026

## Overview

Alberta's government is proposing amendments to the *Education Act* and related regulations to strengthen oversight and accountability, and to help ensure schools remain focused on learning.

If passed, Bill 25: *An Act to Remove Politics and Ideology from Classrooms and Amend the Education Act, 2026*, would modernize processes to support a more transparent and responsive education system that prioritizes student safety, improves efficiency and promotes respect for diverse viewpoints.

## Supporting safe and respectful schools

If passed, the legislation would update language in the *Education Act* to strengthen the focus on safe, caring environments that promote respectful and responsible behaviour. School authorities' student codes of conduct would also be required to include a statement prohibiting violence of any kind at school and during school-related activities and reinforcing students' roles in assisting in preventing violence in schools.

## Ensuring neutrality, impartiality and diverse viewpoints

Proposed amendments would help classrooms encourage diverse student perspectives and help ensure that any education programming, not approved under the *Education Act*, is fair, impartial, neutral and free of personal bias. These changes are not intended to impact constitutional rights and protections.

If passed, the amendments would:

- reinforce expectations in the *Education Act* for school authorities to uphold students' ability to express diverse perspectives or ideas which comply with the code of conduct for students and students' responsibilities;
- ensure school authorities refrain from issuing statements or taking positions on political, social or ideological matters that are not relevant to fulfillment of the boards' obligations under the *Education Act*; and
- protect employees from being required to take part in activities that conflict with their personal beliefs, except when participation is required as part of an approved course, program of study, or religious instruction under the *Education Act*, or for religious activities related to the operation of the school board.

Further amendments to related regulations or the development of new regulations would:

- clarify expectations in the Code of Professional Conduct for Teachers and Teacher Leaders to remain objective, present balanced perspectives and support students in expressing different viewpoints;
- set provincial requirements that would require school authorities to display only the Canadian flag and the Alberta flag at a school, unless permitted in regulation, and play the Canadian national anthem weekly; and
- introduce provincial oversight for naming school buildings owned by public school divisions.

Exemptions may be considered within the regulation related to flags to allow the display of flags that reflect Alberta's heritage and history, as well as flags that reflect school culture or are displayed temporarily for school activities or ceremonies.

## Focusing on core education priorities

If passed, amendments would allow government to set provincial strategic priorities to promote consistency across the province. Additional amendments would require school authorities to:

- establish and implement methods that facilitate the meaningful involvement of parents in student learning and decisions respecting noninstructional school activities; and
- ensure provincial curriculum, programs of study and courses are fully implemented and continuously monitored to deliver high-quality, academically challenging instruction focused on academic rigor, intellectual integrity and essential knowledge.

## Enhancing school board trustee accountability and superintendent contract oversight

A new Ministerial Order would establish principles for school board trustee codes of conduct, including protections for freedom of speech and expectations for responsible governance.

School board trustees seeking a nomination in a federal election or by-election would be required to take an unpaid leave of absence, aligning with the requirements in the Alberta *Election Act*, and helping avoid potential conflicts of interest. Additional amendments would establish Ministerial oversight of new or renewed employment contracts for superintendents. While school boards would continue to appoint superintendents, contracts would require approval by the Minister of Education and Childcare before being finalized.

## Strengthening literacy and numeracy supports

If passed, applicable school authorities and independent Early Childhood Services operators would be required to provide intervention supports for children and students identified with learning gaps through literacy and numeracy screening assessments, helping ensure early identification leads to early support and improved long-term outcomes.

## Other proposed amendments

Additional changes would:

- modernize provincial assessments by completing the transition to digital administration for diploma exams and Provincial Achievement Tests;
- remove the requirement for Minister approval of external parties using or providing learning and teaching resources that deal primarily and explicitly with gender identity, sexual orientation or human sexuality for religious instruction;
- amend the *Charter Schools Regulation* to establish clear eligibility criteria for issuing a charter to a charter school operator on a continuing basis, continue to provide the Minister with oversight to address non-compliance issues and remove the need for renewals for charter schools in good standing; and
- allow the Minister of Education and Childcare to direct the transfer of school board real property to the Crown, enabling government to repurpose underused school buildings to meet community needs.

## Next steps

Most amendments in Bill 25: *An Act to Remove Politics and Ideology from Classrooms and Amend the Education Act*, 2026, would come into force upon proclamation, anticipated for September 1, 2026.

Amendments to existing regulations, as well as new regulations and Ministerial Orders, will be developed to support the proposed legislative changes. Timelines for these regulatory changes will be communicated in advance.